



PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

667 Safeguard Street Suite 100

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Phone: (808) 474-0272 Fax: (808) 474-0269

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Pearl Harbor Shipyarders Support Special Olympics Games

By Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – An unexpected surge in volunteers made it possible for Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard to expand its support of the Special Olympics Hawaii statewide Summer Games May 30-31 at the University of Hawaii-Manoa campus.

“The response was overwhelming,” said Shipyard Administrative Officer Yvette Flynn, who coordinated the command’s signup of volunteers. The usual number is about 150, she said, but this time 206 employees, family members and friends of the Shipyard turned out.

The Shipyard contingent, clad in bright orange T-shirts, represented 11 departments, five shops, two naval shipyards, 34 local schools, and five colleges.

“The Shipyard ‘owns’ the swimming venue, where we time, record, cheer, escort, stage, and otherwise keep the swimming heats running smoothly,” Flynn said. However, with the added volunteers, “we helped out at the Healthy Athlete venue and with hospitality.”

The former was a wellness fair for the athletes while the latter consisted of distribution of food and beverages for all volunteers at the Summer Games.

The swimming events started on “a special, albeit somber, note,” Flynn noted. Those assembled paid tribute to Zach Mar, a familiar face over the years to repeat volunteers and a multiple-medal winner at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai.

A year-round swimmer, he passed away in January after a practice session in preparation for these games. A poolside banner encouraged the athletes to “Do it like Zach” by giving their all and cheering for their fellow competitors.

Flynn expressed appreciation to all the volunteers for their service to the athletes. At the closing ceremonies at the aquatic complex, Nuclear Engineer Nathan “Kaipo” Punahele sang “Hawaii Aloha” as everyone linked hands and swayed in unison to the song of blessing and joy.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,700. It has an operating budget of \$620 million, of which more than \$390 million is payroll for civilian employees. The Shipyard, strategically located in the Pacific Ocean, is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy’s surface ships and submarines.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit <http://www.phnsy.navy.mil>.